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THE EDITOR

THE motives which have led to the establishment of the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING will be readily understood. For many years the profession has been indebted to the nursing journals already in the field for cordial coöperation in many lines, and it has been largely through the instrumentality of these journals that the most important of its organization and educational work has been accomplished. Still, these journals have not been owned or controlled by nurses, and with the rapid strides that the profession is making in every direction, journalism would seem to be a necessary part of the trend of nursing progress. The "Associated Alumnae of Trained Nurses of the United States" in establishing an independent magazine is but following in the footsteps of all large organizations by having an organ of its own.

Every large association whose members are widely scattered has during the year many communications to make which can best be made through a recognized official channel. On the other hand, this society, working on advanced ethical and educational lines, standing for that which is most womanly and most progressive in nursing work, has much valuable information to impart to the public, as well as to the nursing profession at large.

The names of the women who have been selected to manage and edit the magazine should be a sufficient guarantee of the conscientious and thorough manner in which the work will be performed. Each name stands for a recognized force in the nursing world, and the duties that each one has pledged herself to perform gratuitously, for the first year, are an added burden to lives already heavy with care.

Financially the JOURNAL is well endorsed. The publishing house is too well known to require even a word of introduction, and as this firm also assumes the business management, the enterprise may be regarded with entire confidence.

It will be the aim of the editors to present month by month the most useful facts, the most progressive thought, and the latest news that the profession has to offer in the most attractive form that can be secured. In order to do this they must have the personal coöperation of the four thousand members of the society, to whom they will look for every kind of information of value to nurses.

Such knowledge, gained through experience in private work and in

the hospital, coming from every section of the country,—north, south, east, and west,—cannot fail to make the JOURNAL not only interesting, but of great educational value. In a practical way, every member can assist greatly by subscribing to the JOURNAL and inducing her friends to do the same.

It will be the policy of the magazine to lend its pages freely to the discussion of subjects of general interest, presenting every question fairly and without partisanship, giving full recognition to all persons offering a suggestion that shall be in the line of nursing progress, excluding only such controversy as shall seem to be personally malicious or lacking in broad interest to the profession.

Nursing in some form enters, sooner or later, into the life of every home. It is domestic in the deepest sense. Every woman with children should have some knowledge of it.

Until men and women whose names honor the boards of management of hospitals and other philanthropic enterprises are in close touch with nurses, frictions and factions will go on. Consequently, the JOURNAL will be of much importance in the home.

THE first issue of the JOURNAL can hardly be taken as a criterion of what is to follow. An immense amount of time and energy has necessarily been expended by the entire staff in gaining a knowledge of what we may call the business technique that hereafter can be devoted to increasing the professional and literary merit of the magazine.

All of the great questions will be taken up in turn,—State organization, the army nursing service, and educational projects of vital importance to the nurse of the future.

Two of the educational projects are so well understood that passing mention only will be made at this time,—the “Teachers’ Course in Hospital Economics,” the prospectus of which is given in this number, and which has for its object the evolution of the efficient teacher from the professional nurse, and the subject of “State Registration,” whose legal aspect is discussed in “What we may Expect from the Law,” which will lead eventually to a uniform standard of excellence in all of the nursing schools. Even now, with these questions in their infancy, comes a problem with as imperative a demand for solution as either of the others. I mean the establishment of a “preparatory school” for intending applicants to training-schools.

The absolute necessity for some preparatory knowledge of the theory of nursing, before beginning, and not simultaneously with, the practical work in the wards has for some time been apparent to the executive officers of training-schools.

Two training-schools at least in Great Britain have already made more than tentative experiments, along lines, however, that would not be altogether practical in this country.

There is a plan being formulated in Boston for the opening of such a school, the details of which are being worked out by Miss M. E. P. Davis, which will probably be on the basis of a uniform entrance examination for all schools. Candidates who are able to pass this examination without special preparation will, of course, be admitted directly to the training-school. Those who are unable to do this will be referred to the preparatory school. Here the pupils will be instructed in the elementary branches of the work, both practical and technical. For instance, before being intrusted with the care of a patient, the candidate will be taught to sweep and dust a room and to take care of the common household utensils, to prepare for a bath, make a bed, serve simple food, etc., with a sufficient knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and hygiene to enable her to handle a patient intelligently from the first.

The results obtained in the schools of Great Britain already referred to we shall give in full later, and the Boston experiment will be watched with a great deal of interest.

THAT we are to have State Societies seems to be a foregone conclusion. Upon what lines they shall be formed, so that all nurses shall be represented, is the perplexing question. To follow the example of the medical profession we should organize in counties. Every woman in the country, holding a diploma from a reputable school, has a voice in this matter. Kentucky is already moving. New York will soon follow. Which State next?

WE close our first number with deep feelings of gratitude to our able associates, contributors, and many friends for their material assistance and cordial interest in our efforts to establish the *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*.